

Population Problems in India A Sociological Study

Dr. Shivananda S Kempaller

Assistant Professor & HOD / Principal GFGW College Haveri -581110

Submitted: 15-02-2022

Revised: 25-02-2022

Accepted: 28-02-2022

INTRODUCTION:

The growth of population has a direct effect on the living standards of people. This is why, despite our spectacular progress in the agricultural and industrial spheres since independence, our per capita income has not risen appreciably. If the population continues to increase at this rate, in a few years from now, we will have an army of unemployed, hungry and desperate people who will threaten the very foundations of the social, economic and political systems and institutions of the country.

Population Growth in India After 1921

The period from 1921 to 1951 is regarded of steady population growth. During this period population of India increased from 251 million (1921) to 361 (1951). Thus, a population of 110 million was added in period of thirty years. The year 1921 is often referred to as the "Year of Great Divide", the least period in which India's population declined, due to the effects of famine. It should the birth rate in India's heavily populated and higher fertility northern states not decline smoothly, the number added could rise yet again. Causes of great population explosion in India after 1921. During the next four decades, 1951-91 another 485 million people were added to India's population. This abnormal increase of population in India since 1921 was mainly due to a decline in "abnormal deaths" from epidemics and famines and the overall decline in the death rate. India's population grow slowly between 1901-1921- The high birth rate was counterbalanced by high death rate. The progressive growth rate in 1921 over 1901 was only 5.42 percent. The high mortality during this period was the product of large scale abnormal deaths due to epidemics of influenza, plague, small pox, cholera, etc.

1921 is very significant for population Analysis:

The year 1921 is called a great divide in the demographic history of India because it is the only census year when there was a decrease in growth of population. After 1921 there has been a

trend of continuous rise in population. Population growth accelerated for the most of the twentieth century reaching the transitions midpoint in the 1980s and has recently begun to decelerate slightly. Today we are still on the steepest part of this growth curve with additions to world population exceeding 75 million per year between 1971 and 2016. The year 1921 is called "The great Divide" in India because the time India has "Low rate of mortality and high rate birth". Because of famine, there was a serious condition. 1911 to 1921 period decreasing the population due to incurable diseases.

India's population in 1920:

The population of India was more than 318 million and the overall population density was 177 persons per square mile. The average population density in the British provinces and the Indian states was 226 and 101 persons per square mile, respectively. The overall sex ratio of India was 945 females per 1000 males. What happened in the year 1921 in India: In the 1921 the government, confronted with a united Indian front for the first time, was visibly shaken, but a revolt by the Muslim Moplahs of Kerala (Southwestern India) in August 1921 and a number of violent outbreaks alarmed moderate opinion.

Three stages of population Growth:

The relationship between birth and death rates changes with economic development and a country has to pass through different stages of population growth. C.P Blacker divided population into five types as high, stationary, early expanding, low stationary and diminishing. -There are four stages to classical demographic transition model:

Stage-1: Pre-transition. Characterized by high birth rates, and high fluctuating death rates.

Population growth was kept low by Malthusian "Preventative" (Late age at marriage) and "Positive" (famine, war, pestilence) checks. **Stage -2 Early transition.** During the early stages of the transition, the death rate begins to fall. As birth

rates remain high, the population starts to grow rapidly. **Stage-3 Late transition.** Birth rates start to decline. The rates population growth decelerates. **Stage-4 Post transition.** Post

transitional societies are characterized by low birth and low death rates. Population growth is negligible or even enters a decline.

Population Growth in India 1901-2011

Census Years	Population	Annual Growth Rate (percent)
1901	238,396,327	-
1911	252,093,390	0.6
1921	251,321,213	0
1931	278,977,238	1.0

Population Problems in India After -1921

Population Explosion in India: Causes and Effects

Causes of Population Growth

- Widening Gap between Birth and Death Rates
- Low age at Marriage
- High Illiteracy
- Religious attitudes towards family planning
- Other causes
- Our country has to come to terms with the highly competitive world economy. India will be looking for a leader who can be bold enough to take up the issue of controlling population explosion seriously. Unless India can find such a leader, its future cannot be bright.
- The post-World War in period (i.e., period after 1945) is generally referred to as a period of population explosion in demographic parlance. It is a period in which the world population including population in India, experienced unprecedented and accelerated growth leading to Population explosion. For example, while India's population was estimated to be 100 million in 1600 A.D., it was 120 million in 1800, 238.4 million in 1901, 361.1 million in 1951, 846.3 million in 1991, and estimated to be 100 million in August 1999.

If the growth of population is sub-divided into three distinct periods, say:

- (a) From 1901 to 1931,
- (b) 1931-1961,
- (c) 1961-1999,
- We find that the first period of 30 years witnessed an addition of only 17 per cent, the next 30 years saw an increase of 57.4 per cent, and in the following 38 years (or about four decades), India experienced an explosive growth of 127.4 per cent. Thus, population growth prior to 1921 was sporadic, between 1921 and 1951 it was rapid, and after 1951 it can be called explosive.

➤ Increase in Population:

- According to the National Population Policy draft prepared in 1997 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the goal of total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.1 will be achieved by the year 2010. But, according to the projections made by the Registrar General, the TFR of 2.1 would not be reached before the year 2026, if the existing demographic trends continued. This shows how lackadaisical the government and the nation have been in controlling the population growth.

Effects of Population Explosion:

- The growth of population has a direct effect on the living standards of people. This is why, despite our spectacular progress in the agricultural and industrial spheres since independence, our per capita income has not risen appreciably.
- How has the population growth affected India? It is estimated that 25 million people (out of 1000 million people, i.e., 2.5%) are homeless, 171 million people (i.e., 17%) have no access to safe drinking water, 328.9 million adults (i.e., 33%) are illiterate, 53 per cent children below five years are underweight, and country as a whole has 135 th position in the World Human Development Index.
- The appalling overcrowding of our cities (which like cancerous growths are mushrooming unchecked with slums proliferating) has brought about a virtual breakdown of transportation, electricity and other services. It has also led to the rise of crime and an increase in violence in the urban and the semi-urban areas. All this has been directly fuelled by the addition of about 17 million people every year or an annual population growth rate of 2.14.
- If the population continues to increase at this rate, in a few years from now, we will have an army of unemployed, hungry and desperate people who will threaten the very foundations

of the social, economic and political systems and institutions of the country.

- All sectoral demands have a numerical dimension. Whether it is education, employment, health, housing, water supply or any other sector, the perennial question is for how many? Even for the present population of 100 crore (in August 1999), it is futile to think of jobs for all or shelter for all or health protection programs for all by 2000 A.D. especially when another 1.7 crore people will have been added and, hence need to be accommodated.

➤ **Main Causes of Population Growth in India** **Causes of Population Growth**

- Widening Gap between Birth and Death Rates
- Low age at Marriage
- High Illiteracy
- Religious attitudes towards family planning
- Other causes

Effects of Population Explosion:

- The growth of population has a direct effect on the living standards of people. This is why, despite our spectacular progress in the agricultural and industrial spheres since independence, our per capita income has not risen appreciably.
- How has the population growth affected India? It is estimated that 25 million people (out of 1000 million people, i.e., 2.5%) are homeless, 171 million people (i.e., 17%) have no access to safe drinking water, 328.9 million adults (i.e., 33%) are illiterate, 53 per cent children below five years are underweight, and country as a whole has 135th position in the World Human Development Index.
- The appalling overcrowding of our cities (which like cancerous growths are mushrooming unchecked with slums proliferating) has brought about a virtual breakdown of transportation, electricity and other services. It has also led to the rise of crime and an increase in violence in the urban and the semi-urban areas. All this has been directly fuelled by the addition of about 17 million people every year or an annual population growth rate of 2.14.
- If the population continues to increase at this rate, in a few years from now, we will have an army of unemployed, hungry and desperate people who will threaten the very foundations of the social, economic and political systems and institutions of the country.
- All sectoral demands have a numerical dimension. Whether it is education,

employment, health, housing, water supply or any other sector, the perennial question is for how many? Even for the present population of 100 crore (in August 1999), it is futile to think of jobs for all or shelter for all or health protection programs for all by 2000 A.D. especially when another 1.7 crore people will have been added and, hence need to be accommodated.

Following are the main effects of population explosion:

➤ **Problem of Investment Requirement:**

Indian population is growing at a rate of 1.8 percent per annum. In order to achieve a given rate of increase in per capita income, larger investment is needed. This adversely affects the growth rate of the economy. In India, annual growth rate of population is 1.8 percent and capital output ratio is 4:1. It means that in order to stabilize the existing economic growth rate (4×1.8) = 7.2 percent of national income must be invested.

- Problem of Capital Formation:
- Effect on Per capita Income,
- Effect on food problem,
- Burden of unproductive consumers
- Poverty
- Low standard of living
- Problem of Investment requirement
- Population and social problems
- Pressure on Environment
- Pressure on Land
- Impact on Maternity welfare

REFERENCES:

- [1]. Ester Boserup, "The Impact of Scarcity and Plenty on Development," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 14, no. 2 (Autumn 1983): 383-407.
- [2]. Boyer, George R., "Malthus Was Right after All: Poor Relief and Birth Rates in Southeastern England," *The Journal of Political Economy*, 97, no. 1 (February 1989): 93-114.
- [3]. Deming, David, Malthus Reconsidered, Brief Analysis No. 469, Monday, March 22, 2004, National Center for Policy Analysis. <http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba/ba469/ba469.pdf>
- [4]. Dolan, Brian (ed), Malthus, Medicine & Morality: Malthusianism After 1798, Wellcome Institute series in the history of medicine (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2000).
- [5]. Dupauier Jacques, A. Fauve-Chamoux, and E. Grebenik, Malthus Past and Present,

- Population and social structure (London: Academic Press, 1983)
- [6]. Ehrlich, Paul R., *The Population Bomb* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1968)
- [7]. James, Patricia. *Population Malthus: His Life and Times*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1979.
- [8]. Kula, Erhun, *History of Environmental Economic Thought*, Routledge studies in the history of economics 17 (London: Routledge, 1998).
- [9]. Linnér, Björn-Ola, *The Return of Malthus: Environmentalism and Post-war Population-Resource Crises*(Cambridge: White Horse Press, 2003).
- [10]. Macfarlane, Alan, *Resources and Population: A Study of the Gurungs of Nepal* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976).
- [11]. Malthus, Thomas Robert, *An Essay on the Principle of Population as It Affects the Future Improvement of Society, with Remarks on the Speculations of Mr. Godwin, M. Condorcet, and Other Writers* (London: J. Johnson, 1798). Accessible through the Library of Economics and Liberty.
- [12]. Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels, *Marx and Engels on the Population Bomb; Selections from the Writings of Marx and Engels Dealing with the Theories of Thomas Robert Malthus*, ed. Ronald L Meek, 2nd ed. (Berkeley, Calif.: Ramparts Press, 1971).
- [13]. Meadows Donella H. and Dennis Meadows et. al., *The Limits to Growth; a Report for the Club of Rome's Project on the Predicament of Mankind* (New York: Universe Books, 1972)
- [14]. Sachs, Jeffrey D., "The Specter of Malthus Returns.," *Scientific American* 299, no. 3 (2008).
- [15]. Schoijet, Mauricio: "Limits to Growth and the Rise of Catastrophism.," *Environmental History*, no. 4, (1999): 515-530
- [16]. Simon, J. L. and Gunter Steinmann, "Population growth, farmland, and the long-run standard of living," *Journal of Population Economics* 4, no. 1 (March 1, 1991): 37-51.
- [17]. Simon, Julian L., "Economic thought about population consequences: Some reflections," *Journal of Population Economics* 6, no. 2 (May 1, 1993): 137-152.
- [18]. Slocombe, D. Scott, "What Have We Learned Since Malthus?," *The Canadian Geographer* 37, no. 1 (1993): 76-81.
- [19]. Trewavas, Antony, "Malthus foiled again and again," *Nature* 418, no. 6898 (2002): 668-670.
- [20]. Urdal, Henrik, 2005. 'People vs. Malthus: Population Pressure, Environmental Degradation, and Armed Conflict Revisited', *Journal of Peace Research* 42(4): 417-434.